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The President's Daily Brief

15 February 1972

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 February 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The chief Soviet negotiator in the Sino-Soviet border talks now has remained in Moscow for three months; the Soviets, after claiming he is ill, are beginning to blame Chinese intransigence for the long recess. *(Page 2)*

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Tokyo has decided to seek formal diplomatic ties with Mongolia. *(Page 4)*

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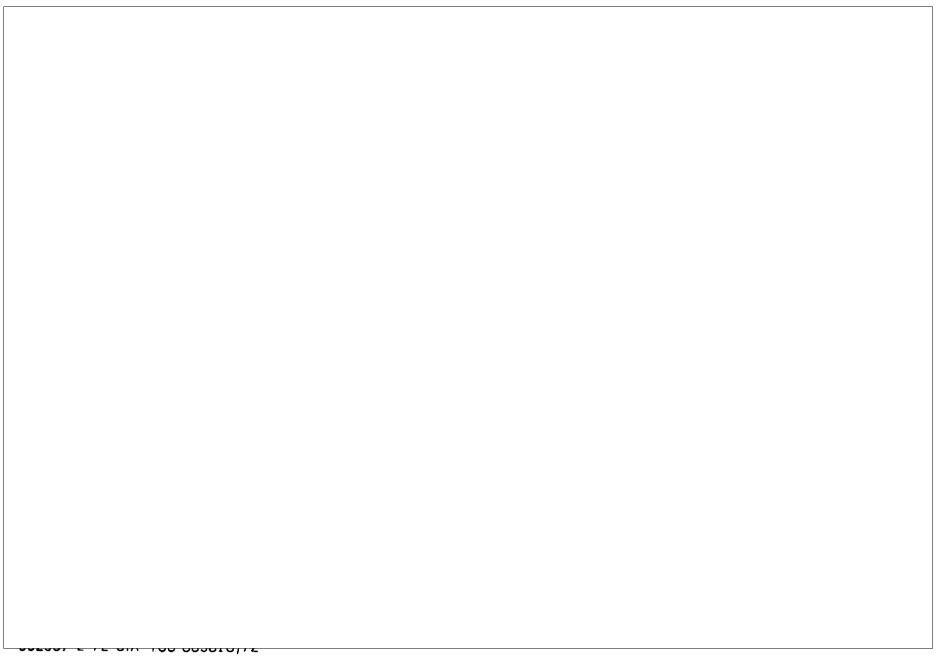

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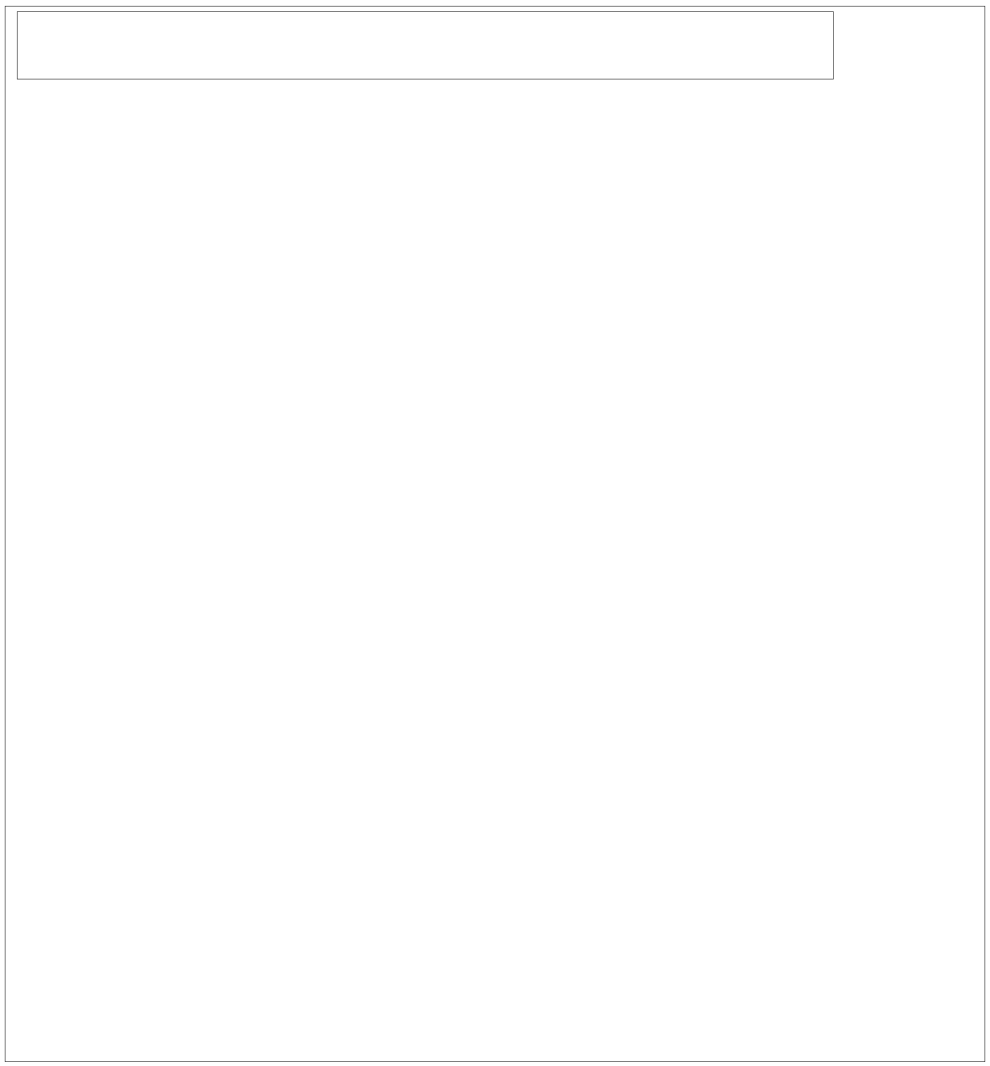

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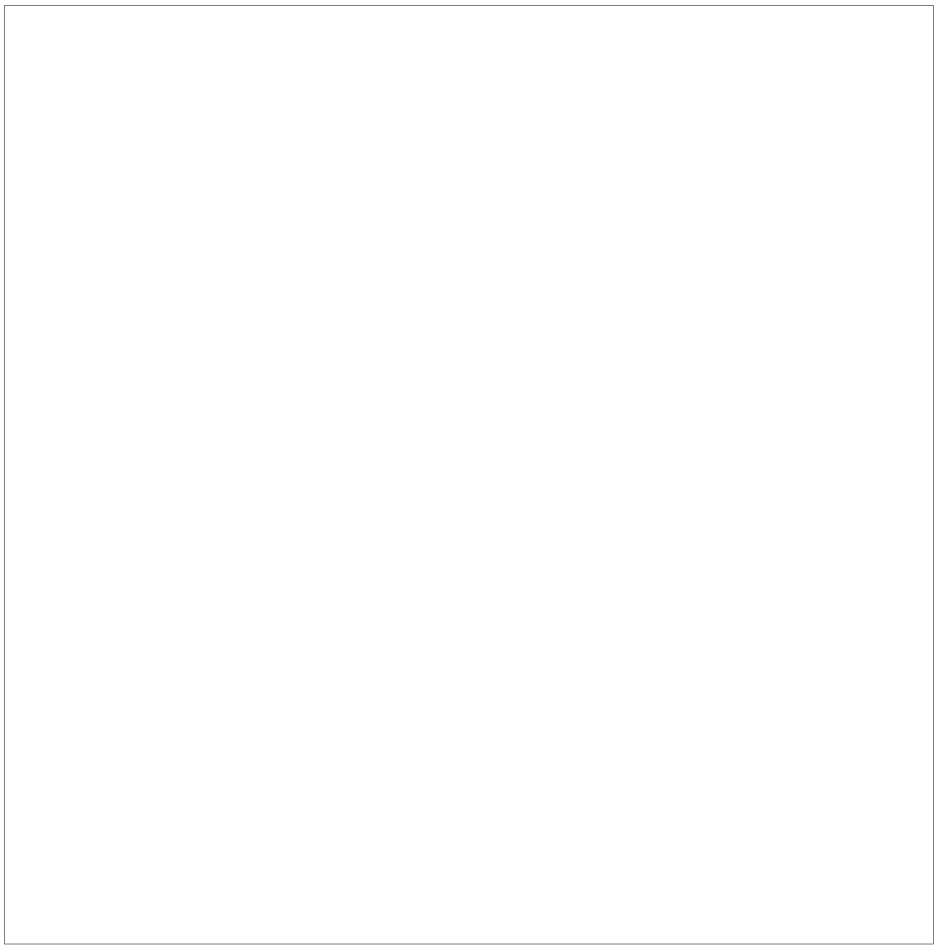

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USSR-CHINA

A public lecturer in Moscow last week made the first open reference to the recess in the Sino-Soviet border talks. (Chief Soviet negotiator Leonid Ilichev has remained in Moscow since mid-November, when he returned for consultations during a Central Committee plenum.) The lecturer said that the plenum approved Ilichev's recall largely because of Peking's intransigence, noting that the Chinese insist on using "old maps" and claiming "all the Soviet Far East and half of Kazakhstan."

Soviet officials have avoided any suggestion that Moscow intends to break off the talks completely, and have explained that Ilichev's return has been delayed by illness, according to Chinese officials in Moscow. 25X1 25X1 25X1

Although Moscow has little hope of reaching a settlement, it finds the discussions useful as a channel of communication with Peking on the sensitive frontier issue and as a demonstration of Soviet efforts to ease frictions with the Chinese. The Soviets may be postponing a decision on resuming the talks until they can assess President Nixon's visit to Peking.

Despite some unconfirmed press accounts of border incidents in recent weeks, we have received no credible reports of armed conflict 25X1 25X1 25X1

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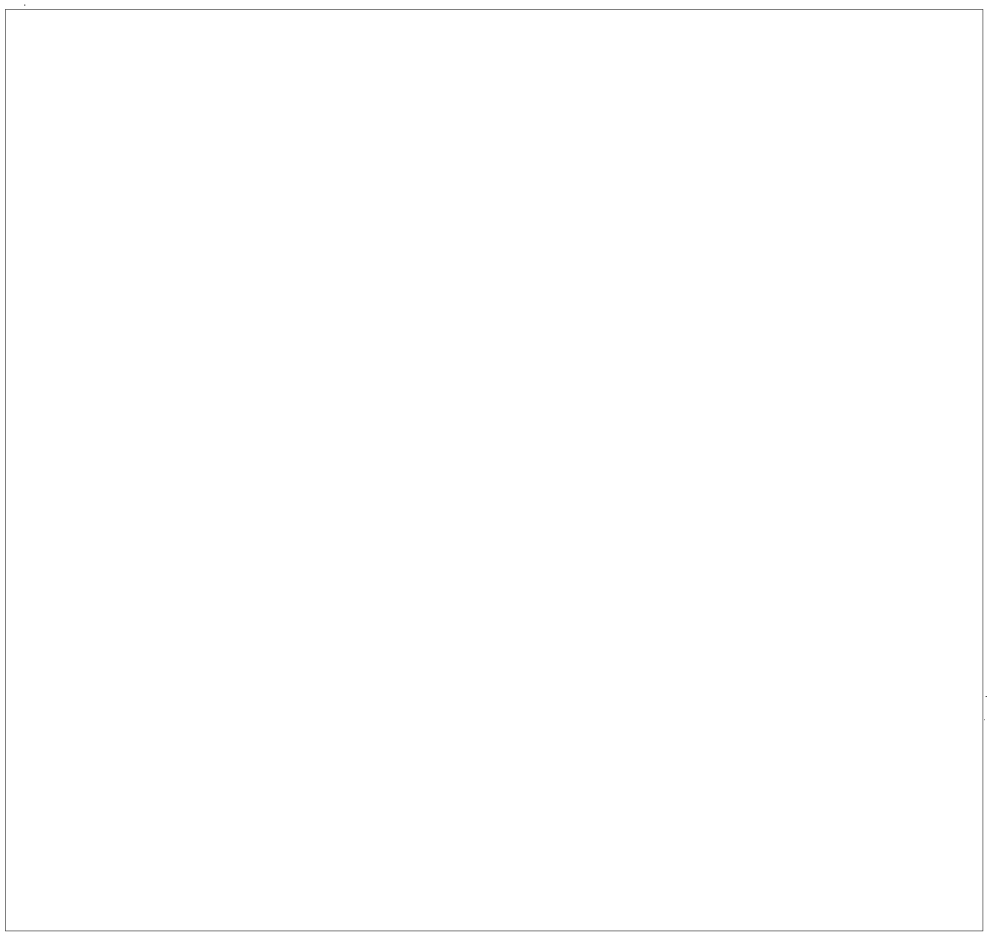

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NOTES

Japan-Mongolia: Tokyo has decided to seek formal diplomatic ties with Mongolia. Both countries have long been interested in taking this step, but in the past Japan has been reluctant to act ahead of the US and has been sensitive to Chinese Nationalist claims to Mongolia. Tokyo's decision to go ahead now stems from its belief that Peking will not object and from its reduced concern for Taiwan's likely protests. The initiative also reflects the conviction of Japanese leaders that they must assume a more innovative, independent foreign policy course. Tokyo anticipates a favorable response from Ulan Bator when talks open between the two countries' ambassadors in Moscow.

Indochina: 25X1 25X1

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Cyprus: 25X1

that the National Guard and the Greek mainland contingent have made preliminary deployments and estimates that they are in a position to move quickly. President Makarios, for his part, appears prepared to resist forcibly any military move against him by Athens. He seems to be playing for time and does not plan to make his official response to the Greek demarche before tomorrow. 25X1

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